

## April 22, 2020 Board of Selectmen Statement

Last weekend, our community was shocked and saddened by allegations made against our police chief, Ralph “Rusty” Marino, and his decision to remove himself from Command after being interviewed by the State Police. The nature of the allegations is deeply disturbing to many of us, most likely everyone, but in particular our police department. Our community is left with many unanswered questions. Our understanding is that a criminal complaint was filed today but the State Police are not sharing the details of their ongoing investigation at this time. Thus, town officials know no more about the facts underlying these allegations than what we have all read and seen in news media and what is indicated in the criminal charges.

Here’s what we do know right now:

1. Marino was relieved of duty on Saturday April 18 and has had no official role or duties for the Town of Stow since that time. He turned in his badge, service firearm, keys and vehicle. His computer has been secured in case it is requested as part of any investigation. Marino left Sgt. Darren Thraen in charge.
2. Marino tendered his resignation from the Stow Police Department on April 22, 2020 and the Selectmen accepted it that evening.
3. Neither the State Police nor the District Attorney’s office nor anyone else has given us any reason to believe that any other employee in the police department was aware of or aided any illegal activities. We have no reason to believe that anyone did. We have no reason to believe that the operations of the Stow Police Department were affected in any way.
4. The Town will obviously be keeping a close eye on any criminal investigation, and on any facts that come to light during that process, and will cooperate fully with the State Police and DA’s office. We also respect that Marino is entitled to due process under the law.
5. The Stow Police Department is much more than any one individual. It is comprised of several dedicated men and women who have spent years keeping the Town safe and earning the trust of its residents. Again, we have no reason to believe that anyone currently in the Stow Police Department did anything wrong. Though the events of this weekend are deeply troubling to all of us, there is no reason for residents to believe that the high quality of public safety services in Stow has changed at all. The men and women of the PD will continue to support us through this time, because that’s their job. We should support them through this time as well, because they’ve earned our support.
6. If we learn anything to the contrary to anything set out above, we pledge to inform you if allowed by the State Police, and to act on it immediately.

7. Residents should feel free to call the Town Administrator at 978-897-2927 or email him at [townadministrator@stow-ma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@stow-ma.gov), or email the chair of the Board of Selectmen at [jamessalvie@stow-ma.gov](mailto:jamessalvie@stow-ma.gov). Members of the press are requested to contact Town Counsel Jon Witten at 617-827-9056.